



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Summary

Mid-County Regional Services Center, 2424 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD

Call to Order:	Greg Intoccia, Chair			Respectfully Submitted by: Oriole Saah, Secretary		
Date/Time:	March 15, 2016; 7:00 PM ET					
Attendees:		Adjogah, Mensah		Vacant	X	Rowden, David
	X	Bonilla, Luis		Neuringer, Jason	X	Saah, Oriole (Secretary)
	X	Intoccia, Gregory (Chair)	X	Newman, Rick	X	Shoenberg, Robert (Parliamentarian)
		Vacant		Vacant	X	St. Gerard, Henriot
	X	Lynch, Maisie	X	Romero, Francisco (Vice Chair)	X	Tankersley, Judy
Staff:	Luisa Montero, Director, Mid-County Regional Services Center					
Guests:	Nancy Floreen, President, County Council Adam Fogel, Office of Nancy Navarro Katherine Mullen, Legislative Director, Senator Manno Jamison Adcock, Aspen Hill Civic Association					

Call to Order: 7:02 PM by Greg Intoccia

Introductions

Without a quorum present, MCCAB cannot conduct official business.

Guest Speaker – Nancy Floreen, President, County Council:

County Executive’s budget released to the public today. Eight per cent property tax increase recommended, would amount to about \$450 per household. Biggest proposed increase in her tenure. Charter issue – Ficker Amendment – need unanimous agreement of all nine members. Too early to say how the Council will respond.

MCPS proposed budget is \$90 million over Maintenance of Effort (MOE). But this only funds existing contracts. It doesn’t address class size or closing the Achievement Gap.

Capital Budget – nearly done.

Operations Budget – public hearings will begin after spring break – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, April 5, 6, and 7. Urged everyone present to weigh in as citizens. Urged everyone to send email – but do it soon. The due date to adopt the budget is May 30, effective July 1.

The total budget is \$5.5 billion (includes Federal and other sources). \$4.6 billion is tax supported (taxes on property, income, fees, assessments).



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Metro is shutting down for 29 hours on March 16 (day after meeting). Waiting to see what the effect will be.

Considering legislation to regulate Air B&B type businesses. This will be similar to the way the County Council dealt with Uber and Lyft. Arrangements are currently not legal as they operate outside of land use rules, are not licensed, and not currently regulated. Reimer introduced legislation to legalize and regulate them. Some view them as a community intrusion. How do we tax them? What are we taxing?

Bikeways – Olney & Silver Spring – money added today. It is approved but not funded. Reconciliation is needed. Need to plan to pay for it. May 26 will be final vote on budget items.

Snow response – Recommend people for Golden Shovel Awards – for anyone who helped during the snow. Nominations are due March 17.

County Planning Commission – need party balance for five member board. Need a Republican or an Independent to fill the current vacancy.

Q: Bike paths – is there a survey of usage of existing bike paths?

A: Yes. Is it worth exploring? Important investment for our future. Community benefit. Some commuters. Have a master Plan of bikeways. Adds to land value. Appeals to younger people thinking of moving to the county. Supports roads, as well.

Q: Please speak about economic development and the new Board

A: Officially designated now, Economic Development Corporation as new vehicle for economic development. Some functions will still be performed by the Executive Office and departments. The last member of the board was appointed today. Seeking an Executive Director, must be in place by July 1.

Q: What kinds of people were appointed to the Board?

A: Mix of small & big business people. Expect niches like small business subcommittee. People are from entire county, very diverse in every way you look at it. Minority program and purchasing functions, among others, stay within the county. Current Directory of Economic Development is acting to close down the existing department. Only one staff person is assigned to the Board at this time. The Executive Director will hire staff. No sure how it is reflected in the budget delivered today.

Q: Please speak to the workforce piece.

A: Workforce Development – getting everything under one roof. Work Source Montgomery will manage under supervision of Workforce Development Board (Federal requirement to receive Federal funding).



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Q: Crime stats trending upwards over the past several years. Is this on the Council's radar?

A: Elrich, on the Public Safety Committee, expresses a great deal of confidence in our Chief. New positions created to support public safety officers.

Q: Highly valued member of MCCAB completed a partial term and applied for reappointment. Certainly the County Executive has the right to appoint whom he chooses. But no consideration was given to the body or the consequence of a sitting member not being reappointed.

A: Needs a copy of MCCAB Memo to the Executive. Boards and Commissions serve the County Executive & and the County Executive has leeway to appoint. Navarro's Committee is holding a public hearing on technical changes to the law governing boards & commissions on March 22. Issue raised in the question is not directly addressed. No announcement about the proposed changes or the hearing were sent to MCCAB directly or specifically.

Q: Members of GOCA are concerned about a citizen advisory board regarding speed cameras.

A: Boards provide valuable support to government agencies. Opinions on SERB action should be shared with County Council members. Also the Council agenda is available online. Check publications such as the Bethesda Beat on local news.

Q: Suggested that someone be charge with looking at bills to highlight ones important to MCCAB.

A: Groups are different. Some are more interested in bills than others.

Q: Can Ms. Floreen lend us a staff person to attend our meetings and help us keep up to date on Council activity?

A: Yes, she can lend us a staff person. When staff people are here, ask questions! Ask your director to keep an eye on the Council agenda.

Q: Where does Ms. Floreen stand on the feasibility study for the Olney Town Center?

A: This is a private project and needs private interest to make it happen.

Q: Where do you see the county in the next five to ten years?

A: BRT on Rt 29. Wait to see if it will help. Purple Line – public investment in infrastructure. Economic Development Corp – before the recession we didn't focus on need to grow our job base. New focus is good for the County. Attractive place to live – think about job creation.

Snow – need to improve communication – 311 & snow map didn't work. The real issue was with the state roads. Got an apology & a promise that they will do better. Not enough contractors. State contractors didn't understand their obligations.

Citizens should weigh in on this stuff!



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With a quorum of members present, MCCAB can “do business”

Agenda – approved as amended

Minutes – approved as amended

Community Concerns: none raised

Council Updates:

Adam Fogel of Nancy Navarro’s office reported.

- To see who will sit on the Economic Development board visit <http://www.choosemontgomerycountymd.com/>
- Bill 416 and Bill 316 – Boards & Commissions legislation. Spring 2014 SERB recommendations in the Government Ops Committee – eliminate defunct boards, change membership on some boards. MCCAB is not affected by changes.
- Public safety – Budget increases staffing for 5th district (up-county) to deal with gang related crime. Navarro’s question to Leggett today: why no increase for Street Outreach Network? Members asking what gangs are trying to do? Navarro met with the Chief. There are currently four known active gangs (MS13 and three others). Drugs are a big part of their activity. Unaccompanied minors are preyed upon and subject to recruitment efforts. Police are making arrests. Street Outreach Network focuses on prevention. This is an up-county focused. Some activity, also, in Bel Pre. We need increased position youth development programs. Tee Escape in the Briggs Cheney area is a good example. There was recently a regional drug ring busted in the Bel Pre area. Increased policing leads to decreased crime (random, not when people know each other) in the Central Business District (CBD) of Wheaton. Street Outreach Network has a presence at the County Office Building on Reddie. The Council funded a wellness center at Wheaton High School but it was not opened due to budget cuts made by the Executive. Bel Pre Elementary School (new building) has space for a Linkages office that has not yet been opened, as well.
- The Board of Education decides how MCPS spends funds. Resources are needed to close the Achievement Gap and reduce class sizes. \$90 million over Maintenance of Effort (MOE) pays for wage agreements.
- Appreciates MCCAB support of Wheaton Arts & Humanities Complex. A straw vote allocated \$100,000 in FY17 of the feasibility of both Wheaton Arts & Entertainment and the Olney Town Center. Keeps momentum going. Olney has been on “the books” since 2004 and needs to move. Public investment leads to private investment.
- Will attend MCCAB meetings as able.



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- Does communication from CABS receive precedence over other communication? They try to treat communication equally but they are familiar with our names so it does get attention. It is good to be on record and is valuable throughout the process.

Old Business:

- Next meetings:
 - April – Aspen Hill Library
 - June – Queensguard
 - Committee meeting will be April 11
- Member Replacement
 - 8 candidates applied
 - 2 withdrew
 - 1 did not show up for interview
 - 5 interviewed
 - 1 no longer lives in our area
 - 3 recommended to the County Executive
- Quorum/Member Replacement letter will be sent to the County Executive and carbon copied to the Council.

Director Report

- March 21 – North Wheaton to present MHP traffic study. Where are the issues? A document will be developed with recommendations.
- Arts & Entertainment – going to the state soon
- Election Judges are needed for the upcoming primary and general elections. Go to <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/index2.html>
- Einstein High School will host Independence Day fireworks even though the school will be under construction this summer.
- Montgomery Moving Forward – economic development & workforce asking “what is the next big issue?” Asking for public input online.
- Library is closed – interim location at the Wheaton Rescue Squad

Committee Reports

Quality of Life

- Motion to transmit letter supporting Arts & Humanities Complex proposed by Navarro.
 - Henriot seconded.
 - Friendly amendment: change the language about large indoor events
 - Decided not to add specific dollar amount
 - Vote = 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained



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- Everyone encouraged to weigh in on the budget. Budget Task Force: read the budget from MCCAB perspective & help develop MCCAB response: Maisie Lynch, Henriot St. Gerard, and Judy Tankersley volunteered. Please sent top issues to Oriole. Full MCCAB will vote on construction response at April 19 meeting.

Land Use, Zoning, & Transportation
Come to committee meetings!

Liaison Reports

Permitting –

- WSSC projects & new construction – new online systems for licensing & permits. System is in testing and should be available by summer. Dovetails with permitting services efforts to streamline processes.
- Two new floors of Wheaton lot 13 building will be for Permitting, out of Permitting's budget.
- Town Meeting to report to County Executive. IT is a major issue for them.

Olney – has not met since last MCCAB meeting

PEPCO – has not reconvened yet

WUDAC – Walking tour of Pembridge. MHP – residents need to engage that community. Need to support MHP efforts to help people get affordable housing. Apartments off of Blueridge – showing past improvements. Happy to give more tours.

New Business

- Budget – Quality of Life plan noted above
- Website – request for a standard template for letters so they are consistent. Some items on the website appear to be unsigned or otherwise incomplete. These will be updated.
- April meeting at Aspen Hill library – discussed logistics and room setup. Will leave to Judy's judgement. Group does not want to face in with the public looking at our backs.
- Should MCCAB hold a meeting in this community?

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting approved at 9:15 pm.